

Competition!

To compete or not to compete? -- Should we even ask the question?

by:

J.F. (Jim) Straw

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Competition!

To compete or not to compete? -- Should we even ask the question?

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To compete or not to compete, that is the question. Whether it be nobler in the minds of men to accept the challenges and rewards of competition, or turning away from competition, endure the apathetic indolence of a non-competitive society.

The United States of America was founded and grew upon competition; the struggle to survive, achieve, and accomplish. Yet, at this juncture in our history, we are faced with the possible destruction of our existence by our own hands. We are, more and more, becoming a nation of people who demand all of the rewards of competition, without the challenges and struggles.

Trade Unions demand higher wages, more benefits, and guaranteed jobs; without the challenges of increased production, job responsibility, or elimination of non-essential or redundant work units. - Big business demands sanctions, restrictions and limitations on their competition; rather than accepting the challenge of the market place. - Welfare recipients demand higher paychecks for not working; without competition in the job market.

In days gone by, if a business was confronted by a competitor who could produce and sell a comparable product at a lower price, the business scrutinized its production and attempted to meet the challenge in the market place. Today, the business contacts one of the many and various governmental agencies, bureaus or commissions; or one of the trade, consumer or special interest organizations, and attempts to eliminate the competitions ability to compete. If they can incite a Trade Union to organize the competitors work

force; or enjoin the competitors from doing business under the thousands of fair trade regulations; or limit the competitors ability to compete by enacting restrictive legislation or trade limitations, the business need not compete.

Remember when you could buy a "brand new" American-made automobile (less than 20 years ago) for under \$3,000? - Then, the American automobile makers waged war against the Japanese automobile makers; but not in the marketplace. Rather than trying to compete with the Japanese, the American automobile industry lobbied for import restrictions and limitations levied against that competition.

Unfortunately, this attitude of gaining an unwarranted, non-competitive edge has permeated our society. - Students can no longer "fail" in school; as evidenced by a 60% functional illiteracy rate among high school graduates. They are "passed" because requiring them to toe-the-mark and earn a passing grade would violate their human rights (it is their human right to remain ignorant and unlearned). - People want to receive a paycheck without working; get rich without effort; lose weight without dieting; live forever by taking a pill; and be a winner without playing the game (Monday-morning quarterbacks are the rule, not the exception).

Competition forced this nation to be great. To compete, we have developed new technologies, advanced methods, and diverse approaches to production. Without competition, we would still be riding horses (or walking), firing muzzle loaded muskets, and tilling the soil with our bare hands. - If necessity is the Mother of invention, competition is the Mother of necessity.

A business, nation, or person, that accepts, embraces, and relishes the challenges of competition has the opportunity to succeed. Those that strive only to eliminate the challenges of competition are doomed to self-destruction at the hands of the self-same methods they use to eliminate their competitors.

Bio:

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